Equal Rights

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SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 1931

Members of deputation to M. Fontaine, President of Governing Body of International Labor Office. The delegation is shown leaving the Labor Office, Geneva. Left to right: Mme. Eugenie Meller, Hungary; Elizabeth Abbott, England; Miss Beetzen-Ostman, Finland; Chrystal MacMillan, England; Anna Westergaard, Denmark; Alice Paul, United States of America; Dr. Rosa Welt Straus, Palestine; Edith Rodgers, England.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.

Homo Sapiens

THE supreme accomplishment of evolution during the past few hundreds of billions of years appears, in the year of Grace 1931, to be the development of the ability on the part of protoplasm to direct, in some measure, its own destinies. Homo Sapiens, as one manifestation of protoplasm, differs from all the rest, from the amoeba up to the higher apes, in his altogether original ability to bend the future to his own volition. He has taken the forces of nature, the wind, the waterfall and the lightning, and has made them sail his ships, run his machines and turn night into daytime. From enemies he has converted into vassals the various external factors of his existence.

He has now within his knowledge the power to abolish poverty, outlaw war, set up justice as the final arbiter in the relation of human beings to one another, and otherwise establish the Kingdom of Heaven upon this little planet. It is an amazing accomplishment, even if it has taken a few hundreds of billions of years of anguish. The agony was worth it, with one provision, that the knowledge shall be utilized.

Homo Sapiens can abolish poverty, can outlaw war, can set up justice as the final arbiter in the relation of human beings to one another, but will he?

That is the question. Evolution may have to do the whole job over again, begin once more with a totally denuded planet, unless protoplasm as it appears now in Homo Sapions can produce the will as well as the ability to go forward.

One indication that gives us hope is to be found in the recent action of the Council of the League of Nations. As reported on the next page of this issue the Secretary General of the Council has been authorized to ask the opinion of the women of the world upon the question of their nationality. This marks a significant step in human progress. Heretofore one-half the human race has been but little consulted with regard to its own destinies. Women are the only creatures on the planet who intimately know what they desire with regard to their own nationality. It is encouraging, therefore, that Homo Sapiens, hitherto so obtusely arrogant, should have the wisdom and the humility in 1931 to consult them.

The action of the Council of the League of Nations on January 24, 1931, vindicates every sacrifice that mankind has made in the name of democracy. Voluntarily, without the threat of armaments, calmly, and in a spirit of ordinary fair play, the rulers ask the ruled their frank opinion. Very different from the time of Magna Charta, from the days of '76, from the era of the Civil War in America.

Homo Sapiens desires to bring order out of chaos in the matter of women's nationality; he desires to establish an international code. In the olden days he would have proceeded to take action without turning to the only available source of information, namely, women themselves, but in 1931 he approaches the problem rationally.

For the first time in our lives we believe that Homo Sapiens is deserving of his name. He behaves like a thoroughly intelligent human being. If he continues on the same high level, it will not be necessary for evolution, in the quest for the superman, again to revert to the amoeba.

In Defense of Matrimony

THERE seems to be no doubt but that the stampede of legislators to solve the unemployment problem by creating unemployment among married women is slowing down. With the defeat of the Swartz Resolution in New York State and the downfall of many similar bills elsewhere the tide may be said to have set definitely in the direction of giving the married woman a square deal.

The Palo Alto *Times* in a recent editorial states the case in behalf of married women perfectly:

"The silly legislative effort has been revived this year to bar married women from the right to hold public salaried positions. Those to whom this notion is quite dear are capitalizing the temporary 'hard times' as the opportunist argument with which they hope to put over a permanently restrictive regulation.

"The proposal is basically a foolish one because of its extremely paternalistic character. More than that, it would be unjust because of its discriminatory character—limiting the citizenship rights of a large number of people whose only offense meriting a penalty has been that of matrimony.

"Vocational choice is a personal matter and one in which fullest freedom of choice should be granted without any paternalistic laws denying that right."

Women Win Point on Nationality

VICTORY is once again the reward of the valiant efforts of women in their struggle for equality in nationality.

Alice Paul, chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, in commenting on the action of the Council of the League of Nations, said:

"Women throughout the world must rejoice that the Council of the League of Nations has recognized the indignation with which women regard The Hague Convention on Nationality because of the fact that this convention — designed to form the opening section of a world code of law—discriminates against women.

"The Council has voted to send to all governments the Ferrara resolution, introduced in the recent Assembly of the League, calling for the reopening of the question of the nationality of women; the Council has also voted to put the subject of the nationality of women upon the agenda of the next Assembly, and finally the Council has empowered the secretary-General of the League to create a Committee of Women, composed of two members from each of the leading international women's organizations, to give expression to the point of view of women upon this subject for presentation to the next Assembly. For the first time in the eleven years of its existence, the League of Nations has voted to ask the opinion of the organized women of the world upon legislation which particularly concerns them.

"We, of the Inter-American Commission of Women, rejoice in this action taken by the Council today and we are proud that it was an American member, M. Matos, who introduced the resolution in the Council with regard to putting this subject before the next Assembly and with regard to creating a Women's Advisory Committee."

This is the third time that the women of the world have appealed to the League of Nations in behalf of equality in nationality between men and women. The first time, the Inter-American Commission of Women secured action by the 1928 Assembly of the League of Nations with the result that a recommendation was sent to all governments by the League to include women in their delegations to The Hague Conference on Codification.

The failure of the Convention on Nationality of The Hague Codification Conference to accord equality to women brought the women to Geneva last September to request the Assembly to advise the reopening of the question of the nationality of women for further discussion. Through the efforts of Mr. Ferrara of Cuba, a recommendation to this effect was attached to the report on codification adopted by the Assembly, which adjourned the whole question of codification to the 1931 Assembly.

The appeal to the Council of January, 1931, was to gain further assurance that discussion of women's nationality should form part of the agenda of the 1931 Assembly and that there should be included in this discussion the point of view of women, expressed through a committee of women, elected by international organizations of women.

This is the victory which the courageous and indefatigable work of representative women from eleven nations have achieved. Among these workers are:

Austria: Baroness Elizabeth Bachofen-Echt, Vienna. Officer of the Austrian National Woman's Party.

Chile: Marta Vergara, Santiago. Member of Nationality Committee, Inter-American Commission of Women.

France: Camille Drevet, Paris. Member of International Board of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Great Britain: Flora Drummond, London. President of Six Point Group of Great Britain. Dorothy Evans, Farnborough, Kent. Member of Joint Nationality Committee of British Organizations.

Hungary: Eugénie Meller, Budapest. Joint chairman of the Woman's Organization for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship of Hungary.

Holland: Lily van der Schalk, The Hague, Secretary of the Joint Nationality Committee. Elizabeth van der Bosch de Jongh, The Hague, first vice-chairman of the Equal Rights International. Dr. Bakker van Bosse, The Hague, president of the Dutch Association for Interests of Women and Equal Citizenship.

Palestine: Dr. Rose Welt Strauss, Jerusalem. President, Equal Rights Association of Palestine.

Sweden: Elin Wägner, Stockholm. Officer, Equal Rights Association of Sweden.

Switzerland: Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, Geneva. President of the World Union of Women for International Concord. Mme. Ruesch, Geneva. Secretary World Union of Women for International Concord.

United States: Alice Paul, Washington. Chairman, Nationality Committee of Inter-American Commission of Women. Emily M. Smith, Minneapolis. Representative, National Woman's Party. Margaret Whittemore, Santa Barbara, California. Second vice-chairman, Equal Rights International.

Yougoslavia: Marie Volinski, Belgrade. Secretary, International Headquarters of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Anna Godyvaitch, Belgrade. Former technical adviser to Yugoslavian delegation to The Hague Codification Conference.

The following resolution was adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on January 24. It was introduced by M. Matos of Guatemala and supported by M. Zumeta of Venezuela and M. Barreto of Peru.

On the opening day of the Council, January 19, the Council adopted a resolution presented by M. Grandi of Italy, sending to the governments the Ferrara resolution, which had been introduced in the recent Assembly, calling for the reopening of the question of the nationality of women.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL JANUARY 24.

"The Council will remember that the question of the nationality of women was discussed at length at the Conference for the Codification of International Law held at The Hague in March and April, 1930. The discussions did not result in an international settlement of this question. The States were, in particular, recommended to study the question whether it would not be possible:

"1. To introduce into their law the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality, taking particularly into consideration the interests of children, and especially

"2. To decide that in principle the nationality of the wife should henceforth not be affected without her consent either by the mere fact of marriage or by any change in the nationality of her husband.

"It is to be noted that there is a clear movement of opinion throughout the world in favor of a suitable settlement of this question.

"Various members of the Council have received petitions from women's organizations urging the Council to appoint a committee of women to consider the question of the nationality of women and submit a report on the subject to the 1931 Assembly.

"We venture to propose the adoption by the Council of the following resolution:

"The Council:

"Decides to place on the agenda of the next session of the Assembly the question of the continued study of the nationality of women, and

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly a report on the question after consultation with the following organizations which have been specially concerned with the nationality of women:

"The International Council of Women,

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance,

"The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

"The Inter-American Commission of Women,

"The Equal Rights International,

"The World Women's Union,

"The All-Asian Congress of Women,

"The International Federation of University Women,

"The Young Women's Christian Association.

"The Secretary-General is authorized, if he thinks fit, to request the above-named organizations to set up a committee consisting of two representatives of each organization with the task of formulating joint proposals to be attached to the report to be submitted to the Assembly."

Nationality Bill Favorably Reported

By Burnita Shelton Matthews

The House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization favorably reported Saturday, February 14, on the Bill of Representative Cable of Ohio dealing with the citizenship rights of married women.

IN general the purpose of the bill, known as H. R. 16975 is to eliminate discriminations against married women in the statutes relating to citizenship and naturalization.

First: The bill repeals the provision of the existing law by which a woman ceases to be a citizen of the United States by her marriage to an ineligible alien. Since a man citizen of the United States does not lose his citizenship by marriage to an ineligible alien, this repeal places the man and woman citizen on the same footing.

Second: The bill permits a woman who since September 22, 1922, has suffered an actual or presumptive loss of her United States citizenship because of foreign residence after marriage to an alien to resume her citizenship in the same manner now prescribed for the resumption of United States citizenship by American women who married aliens prior to September 22, 1922. It will be remembered that an act approved July 3, 1930, repealed the presumption of loss of United States citizenship by a woman on account of foreign residence after marriage to an alien, but since the repeal is not retroactive, this bill indicates a way whereby the American woman whose citizenship rights were affected by the presumption may re-establish her citizenship. At the present time there are native-born American women who have presumptively lost their United States citizenship by foreign residence after marriage to foreigners and who have not been able to overcome to the satisfaction of the State Department the now obsolete presumption. Apparently they are not permitted United States passports and are not afforded protection abroad, yet since their loss of United States citizenship is merely presumptive it is doubtful whether any court proceeding for naturalization is now available to them.

Third: The bill stipulates that if any woman was a citizen of the United States at birth her race shall not preclude the resumption of United States citizenship heretofore lost by her because of her marriage to an ineligible alien. There are native-born American women of a race ineligible for citizenship who have married men of their own race and thus lost their United States citizenship, their husbands not being American citizens. A man born in the United States and of a race ineligible to citizenship suffers no loss of his United States citizenship because of his marriage to a person of his race.

Fourth: The bill closes the simple method of resumption of United States citizenship (set forth in the act approved July 3, 1930) to a woman originally an alien and who never possessed United States citizenship except by marriage to a citizen, however, she may, of course, pursue the regular course of naturalization.

Fifth: The bill (in Section 2) repeals the existing law which declares "that no woman whose husband is not eligible to citizenship shall be naturalized during the continuance of the marital status." The repeal will equalize as between men and women the law on that point, since no man is refused naturalization as a citizen of the United States because his wife is not eligible to citizenship. How the existing law on this point works is shown in the following instance from New York: A woman who had always resided in the United States lost her citizenship by marriage prior to September 22, 1922, to an alien of a race eligible for citizenship. This alien applied for United States citizenship but withdrew his application during the war and declined to perform military service for this country. His conduct placed him in the class of persons ineligible to citizenship. So when his wife sought to regain her United States citizenship under the act of 1922 granting independent citizenship to women, the court rejected her application as being that of an alien woman married to an alien ineligible to citizenship.

Members of the Woman's Party and others interested in the passage of H. R. 16975 should write immediately to their Senators and Representatives urging the adoption of the measure before the adjournment of Congress March 4.

Among the organizations which have endorsed the bill are the National Woman's Party, National League of Women Voters, American Federation of Labor, National Association of Women Lawyers, Business and Professional Women's Club and the Council of Jewish Women.

Women Protest Night Work Convention

A DEPUTATION from the Open Door International, consisting of members of the Board of Officers and representatives of Branches and Groups in Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Palestine and United States of America, led by the president, Chrystal Macmillan, was received on Thursday, January 29, 1931, by the president and vice-president of the governing body of the International Labor Office. Monsieur Albert Thomas, director of the International Labor Office, was present. The deputation voiced the protest of women against the Night Work Convention of Washington, 1919, which imposed restrictions on night work for women only.

The speakers were Chrystal Macmillan (president), Thyra von Beetzen Ostman (Finland), Anne Westergaard (Denmark), Andree Lehmann (France), Elizabeth Abbott (Great Britain). Eugenie Miskolczy Meller (Hungary), Rosa Welt Strauss (Palestine), Alice Paul (United States of America), and Edith Rodgers (Geneva representative of O. D. I.) were also present.

A memorandum from the Stockholm Trade Unions opposing restrictions on the employment of women during the night was submitted, and the Danish women workers recorded their opposition to the Night Work Convention through their representative, Anna Westergaard.

The governing body was urged to place on the agenda for the next International Labor Conference the general discussion of the Night Work Convention, since at the time it was adopted in Washington the general principle was never discussed, merely the application of the Berne Convention of 1906 to women.

Mme. Lehmann's speech follows:

"Night work for women has been prohibited in France since the passage of

the French law upon this subject on November 2, 1892. In addition to prohibiting night work for women, the 1892 law also limited their working period to ten hours a day and six days a week, and forbade their employment in certain occupations. The law of 1892 was modified on December 22, 1911. France also passed a law on April 23, 1919, instituting the eight-hour working day for men and women alike, and thus anticipating the labor provisions of the Versailles Treaty. France also ratified the Berne Night Work Convention and the Washington Night Work Convention of 1919, relating to the night work of women.

"We find in our country that special legislation for women, in the majority of cases, defeats the very end which its proponents, with the best intentions in the world, wish to effect—that is, the protection of the woman worker. In regard to the question of pay, for example, certain significant results may be noted. In France a woman is not permitted to work during the night as a typesetter or a linotype operator—a trade which is well paid—but she may be employed during the night to fold and to band the papers, a job which pays starvation wages.

"Up to 1928, women could not be employed in telegraph and telephone offices from 9 P. M. to 5 A. M., the very hours when work slows down. During the day time, when the work is extremely heavy, women were considered capable of giving competent service and yet they were excluded from working during the night hours, when the work was much less fatiguing, and although it was much easier for them to stop work at midnight than to rise at half past three in the morning to begin work at 5 A. M. Finally the government, taking note of the protests of women with regard to this situation, authorized the women, in 1928, to return to night work in these positions.

"Women are permitted in France to work during the night in the railroad service as signalmen, charwomen on the trains, and ticket sellers. They may also be nurses, houseporters and workers in markets, wholesale and retail. Women may also be employed during the night as attendants in cloakrooms and at lunch-counters in theatres, waitresses in cafés, bars, lunchrooms, restaurants, and hotels, and as cashiers in liquor shops. The reasons of morality and of health that are given to justify the prohibition of certain types of night work for women seem to us to be valueless in view of the fact that women are permitted to perform, during the night hours, other work, as shown by the above list, which men do not wish because it is too poorly paid or because they consider it beneath their masculine dignity.

"The outstanding result in our country of prohibiting night work to women has been the reduction of wages of numerous women who are heads of families. The conseqence of the prohibition of night work for women becomes more dreadful in the face of unemployment such as we are having at present. Since the choice of the woman but not of the man worker is limited by the prohibition of night work, her field of activity is more restricted than his and she thus runs a greater risk than he of increasing the army of the unemployed.

"In conclusion, I should like to say that the League for Women's Rights, one of the oldest and one of the most vigorous of the women's organizations of France, stands absolutely against any restriction upon the night work of women which does not also apply to the night work of men."

Mrs. Irwin and Miss Riegel Speak

CONTRASTS, the fascinating, hopeful contrasts between women of our age and those of the past, were the subject of Inez Haynes Irwin's brilliant talk at National Headquarters on Sunday, February 8.

And her contracts were drawn, as they naturally would be, from her own field of literature and of literary creators.

In so many cases, her research has discovered women of genius sacrificed utterly and entirely to the men of their family, either because of prejudice against women's achievements and the education of women, or because of selfishness and stupidity.

The Brontes, Charlotte, Emily and Ann, in whom Mrs. Irwin is so intensely interested, were sacrificed — their genius, bodies, and lives — to the whims of a sickly father and drunken, neurotic brother.

Out of Mrs. Irwin's admiration for the Bronte sisters and indignation concerning their treatment has grown the desire to write a book called "A Feminist Looks at the Brontes." To this end, she has visited the gloomy rectory at Haworth, England, where they lived, has read all of their work and all of the letters which have been preserved, and has also pored over everything written about them.

She finds that, although all three older girls were literary geniuses and the little sister, Maria, who died when she was only 11, showed signs of having the most brilliant mind of all, the father insisted that the one son, Bramwell, was the genius of the family and all hope, education, and affection were lavished on him. Aside from a few poems and letters, which are not particularly good, nothing remains to indicate any foundation for this belief in Bramwell. Yet, Mrs. Irwin says, it is a mystery to her how the three sisters ever had a moment free to write since every waking minute seems to have been devoted to caring for the two weak, but masculine and therefore entitled to service, members of the family.

Already tainted with the family failing of tuberculosis, the grinding life they led killed Emily, the author of "Wuthering Heights," and Ann, author of "The Tenant of Wildfel Hall," within a year of each other. Charlotte, author of four great novels, written in stolen moments, died soon after when only 39 years old. The first attempt at literature made by the three Brontes was the publication, for which they paid, of a little volume of poems. There was, at that time, a great distrust of feminine authors, and they sold only two copies.

Jane Austen, thought by many to be one of the greatest of English novelists, had to write in a room that was always filled with company or members of the family. She had no room of her own where she could have peace and quiet and might concentrate, but worked in the family living room and covered up her work with papers which she kept near for that purpose so she would not be laughed at.

Emily Dickinson, whom Mrs. Irwin considers the greatest American poet, had a disagreeable and intolerant father, who so berated her when she returned home late from a dance that she vowed never to leave the house again, and never did. For more than thirty years, she remained shut up in a rather gloomy house, yet so vivid was her imagination and so quick her mind that, although shut off from the world, she wrote more than 1,300 poems.

"And these," Mrs. Irwin said, "are but a few of the contrasts which show us how far we have come and how much we needed to come this far, and to go even further."

All these ideas and thoughts concerning contrasts were crystalized in her mind, Mrs. Irwin said, when recently she attended a meeting of the Business and Professional Woman's Club in New York and seeing the self-reliant, able, intelligent, progressive women there, she remembered a story told to her of injustice to women in the not-far-distant past.

A wealthy Englishwoman married and had a family of three daughters. After her death, her husband who inherited her fortune, married again and had a family by his second wife. Then he died and left his money, which he had inherited from his first wife, to his second wife. The second wife's children thereafter lived in luxury while the three daughters received none of their mother's money.

Looking at the modern women about her, Mrs. Irwin wondered how such a situation would be considered and how impossible it would be today. And she realized, she said, "how far we had come aside from any laws."

In beginning her talk, Mrs. Irwin said the focus of the National Woman's Party's work has so definitely become international, and that this international work is "dazzling and interesting" to her who could remember the closing of the lives of Susan B. Anthony and other pioneers when she was beginning her suffrage work as the "next generation."

Mrs. Irwin is a member of the National Council and is the author of "The Story of the Woman's Party."

ELLA RIEGEL, legislative chairman of the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Woman's Party, also spoke. Her talk was concerned with the work of the Woman's Party after the Conference on the Codification of International Law at The Hague and dealt particularly with the work at Geneva.

After the meetings at The Hague, Miss Riegel journeyed to some of the Scandinavian countries and held meetings explaining the results of the conference. The Norwegian delegates had returned saying that the four points concerning women's nationality were acceptable to women and the leader of the Norwegian delegation was confident of ratification. Miss Riegel told her audiences that the four points were most certainly not acceptable to the women and, up to the last message from Norway, that country had not ratified.

Then in September, Miss Riegel went on to Geneva and joined Alice Paul there. They rented the front part of a prefumery shop just across from the meeting place of the League of Nations and filled the front window with Woman's Party publicity. The nationality problem had been referred to Geneva from The Hague and the Americans set out to lobby the representatives of fifty-one countries. They interviewed representatives of Esthonia, Latvia, Siam, and Abyssinia in addition to the usual countries and found the far Eastern countries, such as Japan and China ,most encouraging and friendly, and the countries of France, Germany; Italy, and Spain the most hostile. The little party grew until it totaled thirty-five workers representing twelve nationalities rather than the lonely seven at The Hague.

The principal result of this conference seems to have been the introduction of a resolution—really the combination of two —to refer again the question of nationality to the various countries. This will be referred to Geneva for action in September, 1931, and Miss Riegel urged everyone to go to Geneva at that time if they possibly could.

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley presided at the meeting.

Maryland Branch Holds Dinner Meeting

By Florence Elizabeth Kennard,
Executive Secretary of the Maryland
Branch of the National
Woman's Party

THE fourth of a series of dinner meetings held this winter by the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party was given at the Woman's City Club, Baltimore, Md., on Tuesday evening, February 10, and was very gracefully and charmingly presided over by Dr. Grace Hadley Beardsley, who is a graduate of Vassar, and on the faculty of Goucher College. She is a young woman of unusual attainments, a member of the National Woman's Party, a past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club, and a firm advocate of Equal Rights between men and women.

The first speaker introduced was Jennie Berliner, member of the District Bar and chairman of the Legislative Committee of the District Branch. Everyone present gave to Mrs. Berliner absorbed attention while she traced the various ways used down the centuries for proving those unfortunates accused of crimes innocent or guilty. There was trial by combat, there were the fiendish methods of plunging the arm in scalding water; if burnt when withdrawn the prisoner was adjudged guilty; the hand seared by a hot iron at white heat, then bandaged by a priest; in three days the bandage would be removed, if the hand was not scarred, the accused was proclaimed innocent. Then later came the Magna Charta, wrested from King John in 1215, granting the right to every person of trial by a jury composed of twelve tried and true men. In the time of Sir William Blackstone, the great English jurist, the justice of women's being given the right to sit on the jury was demanded, but Blackstone ruled that women were barred because of "the defect of their sex."

Mrs. Berliner believed as chairman of the Legislative Committee of the District in concentrating on one bill and working for it and so jury service for women for the District was selected. Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas presented the bill to Congress and great opposition arose—lawyers were exempted, the opposition cried, and the women lawyers sponsoring the bill were not the proper criterion of public opinion. A large committee was then organized composed of women from all walks of life, among them Judge Mary O'Toole, Mina Van Winkle, Mrs. Harvey Wiley — judges, lawyers, social workers, homemakers, many occupations represented. At every club meeting throughout the District the Jury Service bill was presented by some woman and then a wonderful hearing was held—a magnificent display, said Mrs. Berliner, of interested and brilliant women. The opposition were also on hand, one of the distinguished representatives from Texas voicing the sentiments of many when saying, "I do not want my wife to serve on a jury, or any other man's wife."

"Protect the women" was the cry. And so in order to get the bill across, as an entering wedge for a perfect bill later, a compromise was made, serving in the District is a matter of choice, any woman may be exempted by saying, "I do not choose to serve." But, added Mrs. Berliner, few women avail themselves of this clause. Jury service is a liberal education, one woman said; and another, when asked after sitting on the jury, "what did you get out of it," replied, "regrets that I did not get in years ago, it would have saved me a great deal of money by the knowledge of law I would have gained." Women do not study law in school, the majority are completely uninformed, uninstructed and sign on the dotted line in blissful ignorance of the fact that they may be impoverishing themselves.

Sex offenses, Mrs. Berliner declared, are a very small proportion of those cases brought before the court, the majority of cases pertain to wills, domestic relations, real estate transactions, contracts, leases, and the deeding of property. She then cited the case of a good old German, a client, who had said, "I do not want my granddaughter to inherit any portion of my estate because of her unfilial treatment of her father, my son." The old man died intestate, his property had been deeded but not recorded, the papers deposited in his box were not legal. The court appointed the granddaughter administratrix and when the case was settled the girl walked out of the court room the possessor of twenty-five thousand dollars which her grandfather thought he had disposed of otherwise. A woman client of Mrs. Berliner who had sat through the case and who had previously refused to make a will, came to her saying, "I have done likewise, deeded my estate after my death, placing the papers in my safety box. I want you to make my will."

Women in the District have been on the jury since May, 1927, and are not only helping the culprits but are helping humanity in general.

Dora G. Ogle, legislative chairman of the Maryland Branch, was then introduced and spoke briefly on the work being done at Annapolis.

"We are," she said "bringing three bills before the General Assembly. One was introduced last week, one today and the remaining one next week.

"The one last week removes the discrimination against men in being forced to state their age on registering, the women in Maryland having only to state they are over the age of twenty-one. The bill to be introduced next week relates to inheritance.

"Today the Jury Service bill was introduced, a hearing on which will be held February 25. This is the great controversial question. Miss Mary Risteau, delegate from Harford County is against this bill saying the women of Harford County will not register if they have to serve on the jury. To my mind it will be just as well, for if one is not willing to perform a civic duty that person should not have a voice in the government. However, I've no doubt the same thing would happen which occurred during suffrage days. The antis who fought most bitterly against suffrage are the ones holding office now."

Almira Sweeten of Howard County, a staunch and ardent supported of Equal Rights then told of conditions existing in her county. Mrs. Sweeten is lobbying at Annapolis for the State Federation of Republican Women.

"The Republicans of Howard County have endorsed the Jury Service bill, "she declared, "the farmers' wives at a county meeting immediately endorsed it. A Representative of Howard County says if the women of his county want it, of course, they will get it. A Delegate from another county said he was in favor of jury duty, but did not believe women had the mentality for higher executive offices.

"Mentality! I told him," went on Mrs. Sweeten, "that women had been in mental slavery to men and men's ideas too long and I, for one, expected to live to see the day when a woman would be President of the United States."

The last speaker of the evening was Dr. Mary Wilhelmine Williams, professor of history in Goucher College, who is the first women in the United States to write a textbook on history for use in colleges and universities. Her textbook is now being used at Harvard, Princeton, the universities of California and Pennsylvania. Dr. Williams spoke on "Women's Rights in Modern Scandinavia," and was so interesting and so instructive, bringing authentically a new viewpoint on our Scandinavian sisters that her audience was enchanted from the start to the finish, which came all too soon.

Scandinavian women for many years, Dr. Williams said, had been prominent in business, in politics, in the professions—the University of Stockholm had the honor of having the first woman professor of mathematics. They were far ahead of other countries in social reforms; the explanation was to be found in various influences at work one thousand years ago. The physical structure of the country, its isolation, prevented the feudal system from getting a stronghold, consequently chivalry with its fine ladies never existed there; the women were more natural and freer. The activities of the Vikings, devoted to two ends, legitimate commerce and plundering, were two very important influences upon women. Both brought great wealth, resulting in larger dowers to daughters and a certain amount of economic independence for women and more rights. Women, also, left at home developed a sense of responsibility and realized their independence. They were in tutelage in theory but actually moved about freely and were peculiarly happy and free. Divorce was very easy to get, although the divorce laws were not entirely equal. A woman could divorce her husband if he beat her or if he wore his shirt cut too low. Both could sue for infidelity and the wearing of each other's clothes was also a cause for divorce.

The treatment of women was greatly influenced by the very high regard in which godesses were held. Freda, the wife of Odin, was so wise, so discreet, and powerful, such a strong and able woman, that her personality increased the respect in which women were held. Christianity, under the leadership of St. Paul, coming along later to these isolated countries could not undo the earlier religious influences.

Woman had a place in the professions, was queen of the home, and on marriage a huge bunch of keys was hung at her belt. No doubt, Dr. Williams said, the women did fight on the battlefield, were priestesses, soothsayers, Saga women, and she feels that their spirit is to be found in their great, great, great granddaughters, in the many thousands of the unknown who are living sturdy, courageous lives in the Scandinavian countries.

Democrats, Republicans, and Disabilities, "on the Air"

SENATOR ALBON W. BARKLEY made a nine-minute address on "What the Democratic Party Has Done for Women," and Maud Younger spoke for five minutes on "What the Woman's Party Is Doing," in a nation-wide radio hookup on Monday evening, February 16, over the same chain.

Senator Barkley, whose eloquence has made him much in demand as a speaker on questions of public interest, was a member of the sixty-third to sixty-ninth Congresses, from 1913 to 1927, and since 1927 has been a member of the Unites States Senate.

Miss Younger was in charge of the legislative campaign of the National Woman's Party the stirring struggle to secure the passage of the Suffrage Amendment, and now, as congressional chairman of the Party, directs the campaign to obtain an Equal Rights Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Women of both parties all over the country showed an unusual interest in the program broadcast last Monday at the same hour, when Senator Shortridge spoke on "What the Republican Party Has Done for Women."

Miss Younger in introducing the two Senators paid tribute to their ability and to the work of their respective parties; but concluded the program by saying:

"You have heard what the two great political parties have to say for themselves and we thank the Senators for telling us. But we must know also not only how far women have come, but how far they have yet to go. Today in this fair land of ours there are one thousand laws discriminating against women!

"For instance, there are still States:

"Where the father may will away the child from the mother;

"Where the father is sole guardian of the child;

"Where the child's earnings and services belong to the father alone, and if a child is injured in accident, the father alone may sue and collect damages;

"Where a father is sole heir of a child who dies without will or descendants:

"Where the wife's earnings belong to the husband;

"Where the wife's personal possessions, jewelry, and clothing belong to her husband;

"Where a married woman, even though living apart from her husband, may not sign a contract, as for instance, to go into business, without his consent;

"Where damages for injury to a married woman belong solely to her husband;

"Where divorce laws are much more difficult for the wife than for the husband;

"Where inheritance laws discriminate against women;

"Where women have not the right to serve on juries, and this is true in more than half the States;

"Where women are not eligible to various State offices, as governor, superintendent of public instruction, etc.;

"Where women teachers in public schools have not the same pay for the same work as have men;

"Where women are prohibited from working at certain occupations, as taxi-driver, mining engineer, *et cetera*.

"So you see how much the political

parties have still to do! But we cannot expect them to do it unless women themselves will keep it constantly before them. And this audience tonight can help also. For everyone of you has, among other blessings, one Congressman and two Senators, and you can write them on the subject.

"We believe there is no greater contribution which this generation can make to justice and freedom than to write into the United States Constitution that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

Feminist Notes

Won't Let Her Quit

VIVIAN I. MILNER of Kinsley, Kansas, is such a good city manager that she simply cannot quit her job, though she wants to very much.

Her resignation has been on file for a year and a half, but the city commissioners refuse to accept it, arguing that she owes it to her home town to continue the management that has reduced its taxes and installed modern equipment.

In 1921, Miss Milner became city clerk for the town of 2,500 population. In 1924 the city government was changed to the commission form and then began the search for a good city manager.

Not being a Feminist, Miss Milner, when asked to try the job, only answered, "But it's a man's job."

Apparently it wasn't though, for man after man quit the job under fire. Finally Miss Milner stepped in, this was the latter part of 1924, and took the job temporarily while the search for the "right man" went on.

After city affairs began to run smoothly, taxes came down, new fire-fighting equipment was installed, paving repaired, and other construction work started, they stopped looking for a man, and decided Miss Milner was the "right manager."

Now she wants to quit since "things are straightened out," but she can't.

Physical Superiority

ALICE HAAG of Necedah, Wisconsin, just laughs when "man's superiority" is mentioned. And she laughs loudest when this "superiority" is supposed to be physical.

A farm woman, Mrs. Haag handles a plow as well as any man, is the champion hay loader in her neighborhood, fells trees like a woodsman, and often fells, trims and piles two big loads of oak wood in a day. She has cut and piled two cords of pulpwood in eight hours.

She can easily handle a 100-pound sack of grain, she is an expert carpenter, and a mechanic, too, when it comes to repairing farm machinery. She has painted and papered the walls of her house.

And after all this work she spends her "spare time" in housework, making her own clothes, mending her husband's, and plays the piano and sings for amusement.

A Woman Garbage Hauler

IRENE FREE of Albuquerque, New Mexico, won the contract for hauling the garbage of the city from a field of a dozen masculine competitors.

Mrs. Free says:

"I just want to be a good housekeeper for Albuequerque. I want to see that Albuquerque gets better service than any other city in the Southwest, and build its reputation as a spotlessly clean health center. That's just good business too."

So she organized a corporation with capital of $250,000 for a modern garage collection system and won the contract.

Pride in First Woman Lawyer

PROUD of their first woman lawyer—incidentally the first of all the Canary Islands—the islanders of Las Palmas took up a subscription and bought a lawyer's gown for her.

Josefina Perdoma of Las Palmas followed the example of six women of Madrid who recently broke through tradition and entered the legal profession, though it was considered sacred to men.

News from the Field

Susan B. Anthony's Birthday

PURPLE, white and gold flowers, with laurel leaves and palm, were laid reverently before the memorial monument to Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, which stands in the crypt under the soaring dome of the United States Capitol, on Sunday afternoon, February 15, the one hundred and eleventh anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony. This tribute of flowers is an annual ceremony on the part of the National Woman's Party, which presented the monument honoring these three pioneer suffragists to the United States Government.

Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, and Adelaide Johnson, sculptor of the memorial, laid the flowers at the base of the statue.

The birthday of Susan B. Anthony is commemorated every year by the National Woman's Party, which in its efforts to win Equal Rights continues Miss Anthony's famous declaration to the effect that "Perfect equality of rights for women—civil and political—is today, and has been for the past half century, the one demand of yours sincerely, Susan B. Anthony."

Following the simple but impressive ceremony in the National Capitol at 4 o'clock, the Woman's Party had a tea for members and friends at Alva Belmont House, national headquarters.

Endorse Jury Service

THE Women of the Public Health Association of the First District of Baltimore County, Maryland, recently sent a petition to Senator David G. McIntosh, in which they unanimously endorsed jury duty for women. The bill on the subject is before the State Legislature at present.

The American Homemakers' Association of Baltimore went on record as being unanimously in favor of jury service for women at a large meeting held on February 11. The Saturday Night Club of Baltimore, an organization consisting of both men and women, on February 14 sent a petition to the General Assembly of Maryland urging the passage of the Jury Service Bill.

The Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party is conducting a series of radio programs on Jury Service for Women. Many distinguished speakers are participating. Hazel Skirven is in charge of the programs.

Massachusetts Asks Jury Service

A HEARING was held on February 5 before the Massachusetts Joint Legislative Committee on Judiciary on three bills designed to allow women to serve on juries. Among the speakers favoring jury service by women were Roma N. Hawkins, executive secretary of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. Arthur G. Rotch, legislative chairman for the Massachusetts League of Women Voters; Judge Sadie L. Schulman, legislative chairman for the Massachusetts Council of Women; Judge Emma Fall Schofield, Mrs. Leslie B. Cutler, chairman of the Needham Board of Health; Nina Gevalt, former assistant election commissioner of Boston; Greta C. Coleman, representing the Massachusetts Federation of Women Lawyers, and Representative Mary Livermore Barrows of Melrose.

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